

## DBP Book Review

<b>Name of Book:</b> Miss Spider's Tea Party	<b>Author:</b> David Kirk
<b>Publisher:</b> Scholastic Inc.	<b>Date of Publication:</b> 1994
<b>Name of Reviewer:</b> Janet Lau	<b>Date of Review:</b> 6/20/07
<b>Intended Audience</b> (choose from Parents, Children, Professional, Other): Children	
<b>Purpose of the book:</b> Miss Spider's Tea Party tells a story of a spider that would like to invite several guests for tea, but is repeatedly rejected by the insects she invites, who fear her. Finally, after helping a wet moth, the moth discovers that Miss Spider is actually quite kind and spreads the word throughout the insect world that Miss Spider is friendly and not dangerous. At the end of the book, Miss Spider is content, hosting a tea party for a number of different insects. In addition to the moral lessons of the story, counting, reading, and object-naming are encouraged.	
<b>Theoretical Basis:</b> In addition to nurturing imagination through anthropomorphism, the lesson that an individual's character cannot be surmised merely by appearance or hearsay is promoted in Miss Spider's Tea Party. The concepts of kindness and generosity are also stressed. Through Kirk's clever rhyming text, children may further develop word pronunciation. Counting is also practiced via each of Miss Spider's rejections from a sequential increase in number of insects.	
<b>Strengths:</b> The drawings of the book are very well done with bright contrasting colors, which will easily attract the interest of most children. Each painting accompanying the text has large focal figures directly related to the text, which encourage object-naming. The paintings also contain entertaining smaller background activity, which can be further elucidated by the reader or child on subsequent reads through imagination. Furthermore, children are encouraged to see the insects they encounter in real life as interesting living beings who need not be feared.	
<b>Weaknesses:</b> Although one of the main goals of this book is to teach that good deeds result in rewards (through helping the wet moth, Miss Spider is finally rewarded with kindness and friends), one may fear that children will misunderstand this lesson, and develop a quid pro quo understanding in which friendship can only be bought through favors. Furthermore, the other insects fear Miss Spider, until they realize she will not eat them, which is contrary to the actual natural diet of spiders.	

**Recommendation of Reviewer** (please choose one and put "X" in box next to selection):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommend for all parents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommend for parents with specific problems/issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	May be useful to some parents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Would not recommend

**Additional Comments:**